

CONGRATULATING HENRY "HANK" AARON ON 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF BREAKING MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL HOME RUN RECORD AND RECOGNIZING HIM AS ONE OF THE GREATEST BASEBALL PLAYERS OF ALL TIME

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 279) congratulating Henry "Hank" Aaron on the 25th anniversary of breaking the Major League Baseball career home run record established by Babe Ruth and recognizing him as one of the greatest baseball players of all time, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 279

Whereas Henry "Hank" Aaron hit a historic home run in 1974 to become the all-time Major League Baseball home run leader;

Whereas Henry "Hank" Aaron over the course of his career created a lasting legacy in the game of baseball and continues to contribute to society through his Chasing the Dream Foundation;

Whereas Henry "Hank" Aaron hit more than 40 home runs in 8 different seasons;

Whereas Henry "Hank" Aaron appeared in 24 All-Star games;

Whereas Henry "Hank" Aaron was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility, receiving one of the highest vote totals (406 votes) in the history of National Baseball Hall of Fame voting;

Whereas Henry "Hank" Aaron was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame on August 1, 1982;

Whereas Henry "Hank" Aaron finished his career in 1976 with 755 home runs, a lifetime batting average of .305, and 2,297 runs batted in;

Whereas Henry "Hank" Aaron taught us to follow our dreams;

Whereas Henry "Hank" Aaron continues to serve the community through his various commitments to charities and as Senior Vice President and Assistant to the President of the Atlanta Braves;

Whereas Henry "Hank" Aaron became one of the first African-Americans in Major League Baseball upper management, as Atlanta's vice president of player development; and

Whereas Henry "Hank" Aaron is one of the greatest baseball players: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) congratulates Henry "Hank" Aaron on his great achievements in baseball and recognizes Henry "Hank" Aaron as one of the greatest professional baseball players of all time; and

(2) commends Henry "Hank" Aaron for his commitment to young people, earning him a permanent place in both sports history and American society.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on House Resolution 279.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) control the time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

□ 1245

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, we are indeed privileged to be here today to honor and recognize a true American hero, and as we start this debate I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON).

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to join my Georgia colleagues but really join all of this Congress in paying tribute to Henry Aaron. Hank Aaron is no mystery to anybody in this room. He broke Babe Ruth's record and 25 years ago today hit his 715th home run. He was a distinguished player in the Southern League, throughout the South, then to Milwaukee and finally to Atlanta.

He is known for his home runs, but there is so much more. Hank Aaron was a leader who played with determination, whether the team was good or the team was bad. In this day, in this era of high-paid athletes and prima donnas and egos, Hank Aaron always had the level temperament. He was a man of distinction, and probably his greatest distinction was the year in which he caught and surpassed the Babe, because he dealt with threats, he dealt with discrimination, he dealt with those that would undermine his effort; but he diligently and quietly and professionally, day in and day out, pursued and finally caught the Babe.

Hank Aaron broke a lot of records in baseball. He may have broken a few hearts of teams that lost to him, but to all of us in Atlanta and in Georgia and around America we are proud that Hank Aaron came our way. He is a distinguished Georgian, and all of us in Georgia today are pleased to honor the man we know as "Hammering Hank."

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I yield 5 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP) to make his presentation.

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) for yielding this time.

Mr. Speaker, Shakespeare wrote, "Heights by great men reached and kept were not obtained by sudden flight but they while their companions slept were toiling onward through the night."

It was no sudden flight for Henry Aaron, from an area called Down the Bay in Mobile, Alabama, to an area called Toulminville, out near Carver Park and Edward Street, where he began his baseball career playing for a

Toulminville Little League team; and as he demonstrated his prowess with a bat and with a glove, he achieved great heights over great pain, but there was much gain.

It is my pleasure, Mr. Speaker, to join my colleagues today in celebrating the 25th anniversary of Hank Aaron's 715th home run, the blast that set the all-time career record. That was a great day not only for Hank Aaron and the Atlanta Braves but for the millions of fans in Georgia and throughout the country. It was just one of many shining moments in a lifetime of truly extraordinary accomplishments.

In addition to hitting more home runs than anyone else, Hank Aaron had more runs batted in, more total bases, amassed a career batting average over .300, won three Golden Glove Awards as one of baseball's finest fielders, and earned a place in the Hall of Fame long before he retired from the game.

Hank Aaron, as I said, was born and grew up in Mobile, Alabama, as I did. Needless to say, he was a hero to me and all of the kids in our neighborhood there in Toulminville.

In recent years, now that we are both well-entrenched citizens of Georgia, I have learned from a fairly close vantage point about how much he has contributed to the State and the country, through his Chasing the Dream Foundation, and all his charitable and community activities.

Over the years, I have come to appreciate all the more the characteristics that he has always exemplified; his unwavering commitment and dedication not only to the game of baseball but to the well-being of his fellow citizens as well, his grace and his humility under fire, his kindness and service of others, of outstanding leadership that he provides through example.

Mickey Mantle once said that Hank Aaron was the most underrated superstar in baseball. Certainly, he was highly respected by everyone, but he was such a total player that sometimes people did not fully appreciate what he meant to his team. That is the kind of baseball player he was, and that is the kind of human being he has been as an executive officer with the Atlanta Braves, as a citizen of Georgia, as a leader in his community and his State and his Nation.

Thank you, Hank, for the inspiration that you have given to me and to millions of Americans. Yes, "heights by great men reached and kept were not attained by sudden flight but they while their companions slept were toiling onward through the night." Thank you, Hank. Keep on toiling.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. BARRETT), another one of our colleagues from the Fifth District.

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, it is a real honor and pleasure for me to rise today to pay tribute to one of my heroes, Hank Aaron. I think anybody who is a baseball fan in this

country knows what a tremendous person Hank Aaron is and everything he did for the game.

For me, it is even more than that. It is a little difficult for me to talk here about Hank Aaron while the Braves are still alive in the playoffs because I am very careful to separate my emotions about the Braves from my emotions about Hank Aaron. The reason for that is I used to love the Braves. In fact, as an 11-year-old boy I went to 31 Braves games. Of course, they were the Milwaukee Braves then, and they were, for me, the team of my life. They broke my heart and they broke the hearts of thousands of other Wisconsin kids only to make thousands of Georgia kids happy several years later; but if one is an 11- or 12-year-old kid and their baseball team pulls up roots and heads out of town, that is a pretty devastating event in their life at that time.

I continue to root for Hank Aaron as much as I continue to root against the Braves, and I continue to root for Hank Aaron because he really was, I think for all of us, the ultimate hero. The grace, the way he handled pressure, the way he moved so gracefully through right field made all of us just joyful watching him.

As a young kid playing baseball, he also gave a lot of credibility to those of us who were not good enough fielders to play anywhere but right field. He made right field respectable, and as a right fielder I appreciate what he did for those of us who did not have the speed to play center field.

I am here today because Hank Aaron did so much for this game and so much for this country. I think he has done so much for the kids in this country, because he has given them someone to look up to. Kids need heroes. Kids need good role models. Hank Aaron is a hero, and he is a good role model.

Thank you, Hank, for everything you have done.

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. I yield to the gentleman from Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. BARRETT) for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I am somewhat older than my colleague, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. BARRETT), although I attended those games at County State, and I sat in the bleachers. We could recite the entire team from Vel Crandel to Joe Adcock, Billy Bruton, and naturally Hank Aaron. I was disturbed like the gentleman was when the team sort of left one evening and ended up in another State, but nevertheless the background and the things that Hank Aaron stood for are still alive in all the hearts of those who watched those games from not only Milwaukee but Wisconsin.

In my office here in Rayburn I have a ball that is signed by Hank Aaron that he gave to me a couple of years ago at one of our bratwurst days or hot dog days or whatever it was. So, Hank, thanks for all the memories.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER), who has a very interesting experience to relate about Mr. Aaron.

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, on April 4, 1974, Hank Aaron made history at River Front Stadium in Cincinnati by hitting home run number 714 off Reds pitcher Jack Billingham to tie Babe Ruth's all-time home run record.

It was opening day and it was Hank Aaron's first swing of the 1974 season. The Cincinnati Enquirer described it, and I quote, "as a towering shot over the left-field wall."

Well, I can confirm that because I was sitting out in left field on April 4, 1974, at the Reds' traditional opener for all of major league baseball, and it was the only time I had ever cheered when somebody hit a home run against the Reds. Millions of Americans have felt the same way watching Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa, and it did not matter which team Hank Aaron played for to be cheered for. He was doing something bigger than baseball itself.

Hank Aaron's achievement reminded Americans that nothing is impossible. It taught us that any individual can do anything if he is willing to make the sacrifices to make it happen.

Mr. Speaker, in a few years they are going to tear down River Front Stadium and build a new ball park on the Ohio River, but Henry Aaron's achievement will stand forever, and I urge my colleagues to support the resolution.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as I sat here listening, I could not help but think about how wonderful it is that we from both sides of the aisle stand here today to recognize a great American, and I say that very clearly, a great American.

Hank Aaron has certainly touched the lives of so many, and just listening to the statements that were just made from my friend, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER) and my friends from Georgia and from Wisconsin, those are only three States. I am sure that Hank Aaron touched the lives of many, many boys and girls, women and men, throughout all 50 States, touched them in some way or another, all being in a very positive way.

The wonderful thing about this resolution is that it acknowledges Hank Aaron for all the things he has done and all of the things he continues to do. Even on his 25th anniversary of breaking the major league baseball career home run record established by Babe Ruth, quiet and unassuming Hank Aaron holds more major league batting records than any other player in history, including most home runs and most runs batted in.

In 1970, Mr. Aaron became the first player to compile both 3,000 career hits and more than 500 home runs. In 1972, Mr. Aaron's salary increased from a

lofty \$125,000 per season to a hefty \$200,000 per season, at the time, unbelievably, making him the highest paid baseball player in baseball history.

He accomplished all of this despite the enormous amount of hate mail received prior to breaking Babe Ruth's record.

If anyone has had an opportunity to listen to Mr. Aaron talk about the pain that he felt during the time that he was trying to break the record, if one could hear him talk about the threats that were made on his life and the threats made on his family's life, one would have to add another very important word to describe him. He is indeed a courageous man, for he went out and he did what he had to do anyway; and while he was doing it, it may have caused him pain, but it surely brought him glory and it surely put an imprint, a positive spirit, in the DNA of every cell of every baseball fan throughout the country.

Today, Mr. Aaron divides his time among many jobs. For Turner Broadcasting, he serves as corporate vice president of community relations and is a member of the Turner Broadcasting board of directors. He serves as senior vice president and assistant to the president of the Atlanta Braves. Mr. Aaron also spends a great deal of time working with young baseball hopefuls from underprivileged Atlanta communities. He often talks about the situation the way it was when he came up, the fact that many opportunities to play baseball were not there; and he has made a tremendous commitment never to forget from whence he has come. He has made a commitment, and he has synchronized his conduct with his conscience by lifting others up as he has gone up the ladder of life.

The Hank Aaron Rookie League, coordinated with the Atlanta Housing Authority, has gotten many youngsters off the street and on to the playing fields.

He has also worked extensively with Big Brothers and Big Sisters organizations throughout our country. Despite all that he has done, Hank Aaron does not classify himself as a role model because of his athletic abilities.

□ 1300

He is quoted as saying,

Role models are something you have to be careful about. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is a role model. Abraham Lincoln is a role model. A teacher can be a role model. My mother is a role model to my seven brothers and sisters. I played baseball. I just happened to have a gift that I was blessed with. But Hank Aaron the baseball player is not necessarily a role model.

Hank Aaron considers Abraham Lincoln a role model. Little does he know that the House Committee on Government Reform considered this resolution at the same time H.R. 1451 honoring Abraham Lincoln was being considered. Both bills passed out of the committee on a voice vote. The bill

honoring Abraham Lincoln passed the House just 2 weeks ago.

Hank is right. He is not a role model because he was a great baseball player. He is a role model because, in addition to being a great baseball player, he has integrity and courage. He has fought to break color barriers and still, to this day, continues to give back to his community.

As did Abraham Lincoln, Hank Aaron has contributed to the colorful and diverse fabric of this Nation, and he did so when the tide was against him.

So to you, Mr. Aaron, we say, thank you for all that you are and thank you for all that you are not.

I urge all of my colleagues to support H. Res. 279 honoring Hank Aaron, a true legend.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT) who happens to represent Cooperstown, the home of the Hall of Fame.

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Hank for making today necessary. He is one of America's truly great heroes. It is my privilege to represent baseball's mecca, Cooperstown, New York. So in a way, I am a surrogate congressman for Mr. Aaron.

Let me read to my colleagues from the plaque from the baseball shrine, the Hall of Fame, when Mr. Aaron was inducted in 1982. It reads, "Henry 'Hank' L. Aaron, Milwaukee National League, Atlanta National League, Milwaukee American League, 1954-1976.

"Hit 755 home runs in 25-year career to become majors' all-time homer king. Had 20 or more for 20 consecutive years, at least 30 in 15 seasons and 40 or better eight times. Also set records for games played (3,298), at-bats (12,364), long hits (1,477), total bases (6,856), runs batted in (2,297). Paced National League in batting twice and homers, runs batted in and slugging percentage four times each. Won most valuable player award in National League in 1957."

Those of us who are baseball fans are statistics freaks. We go for RBIs and batting averages. That is how we judge the man. This man excelled. But he has excelled off the field as well.

Let me read to my colleagues from Hank Aaron's own words: "I know that most people, when they think of me, think of home runs; or if they really know about the game, think of 755. But what I would like them to remember about me is not the home runs or the hits or the runs batted in, but that I was concerned about the well-being of other people. You have to reach out, and you have to speak out."

Mr. Aaron goes on to say, "I have tried to be a home run hitter off the field, too. I may not have hit the huge home runs that Jackie Robinson hit or that Martin Luther King and Jesse Jackson hit. But at least I am hitting line drives. And maybe some of them will clear the fences."

Mr. Aaron, you have hit grand slam after grand slam. You are a hero on the field. You are an inspiration off the field. It is my honor to stand in this well of the people's House and pay tribute to you.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2¼ minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KASICH), the distinguished chairman of the House Committee on Budget and a great baseball fan.

Mr. KASICH. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues ought to know that the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) is asking for unanimous consent that Mr. Aaron be added to the lineup tonight in this critical game in Atlanta. Without objection, I think, Mr. Speaker, it ought to be in order.

I wanted to just take a second to pay tribute to Hank Aaron. I do not know all of the statistics. I know that he broke Babe Ruth's record. I remember the night that he hit his home run in Cincinnati and then when he turned around and broke the record in Atlanta; obviously, one of the greatest men to have ever played baseball.

But the reason why I wanted to just say a few words about Mr. Aaron today is because I think our country is in dire need of heroes of the real thing, the real McCoy. Today we have some great heroes that I think that Henry Aaron would give a nod of agreement to: Mark McGwire; Sammy Sosa; Lance Armstrong, who overcame cancer to win that great victory in the bicycle race; Roger Staubach for what he has done and to take his career on the field; Tom Landry, also interestingly enough from the same team, athletes that our young people can look up to today.

I am always disappointed when I read in the newspapers or in the sports magazines about the athletes who sometimes forget that it was only through the grace of God that they were given the talents that they were really permitted to develop. I think, as Mr. Aaron would tell us, no athlete can be great without hard work. But no athlete can be great without the grace and the gifts that God gave them.

I think what Mr. Aaron represents in a way is a permanent hero, a permanent representative, a permanent model of the way that the modern athlete ought to conduct himself or herself, remembering at all times that the kids are watching, that the kids learn to admire and emulate integrity, playing by the rules, being able to play hard, but without vindictiveness, being able to be a good loser, and, most important, being able to be a good winner, and, in all times, remembering that one's career is only one injury away from being over, and it is only by the blessings that one has that one becomes a great performer.

I would just like to say to Mr. Aaron, thank you for what you represent. I hope that you will pass this on as often as you can to the young athletes today who can be the kind of heroes to the

kids that grew up in your era, like me, that these young people can be to our young children today.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. CLEMENT).

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, the gentlemen from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT) and myself and others just got back from Cooperstown, New York. The first time I had ever been there. I had the opportunity to look and review the Hall of Fame.

I saw the pictures and all the honors that Hank Aaron had received by being inducted into the Hall of Fame. I was there in Atlanta, Georgia, just happened to fly from Nashville, Tennessee to Atlanta. That particular day, I was chairman of the Tennessee Public Service Commission in our great State, and I flew down there just hoping that that would be the day that Hank Aaron would break the record of Babe Ruth.

I loved Babe Ruth. I will remember that great man always, knowing that another great man broke his record by the name of Hank Aaron who has made us proud in so many ways. I am proud of baseball; I am proud of its tradition. I am proud of what it means to America and to the world.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. OXLEY), who is the coach of the Republican baseball team.

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise also in honor of a great American, Hank Aaron. I had the opportunity to see Hank Aaron in 1958 in Milwaukee County stadium when I was visiting there with my parents. I had a chance to see him play a number of times after that. But I remember so well that experience.

I remember I was a big sports fan, still am, reading the sports magazines, Sports Illustrated and others, how Hank Aaron came up from Mobile, Alabama. He started out as a cross-handed softball player. I always wondered how anybody could hit cross-handed at all. Come to find out that, with his talent and drive and ability, he was able to set so many records, including the home run record because of that dedication and hard work and true talent.

He has been one that has made us all proud to be Americans in what he has been able to accomplish on the baseball field and off.

My hat is off, as the Republican manager, the successful manager, by the way, of a 17 to 1 victory this summer.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK).

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Maryland for giving me this time to honor this amazing American hero, Hank Aaron. I wish we had more Hank Aarons, Mr. Speaker, a man who remained humble, despite all the honors he achieved, a man who set a record, not only on the

baseball field, but in the lives of the young men and young women of this country.

We all admire Hank Aaron. It is an honor that he is here today to bring a freshness to this House, to bring honesty to this House, to bring a dedication to this House. We are so very glad to have him here and honor him for what he really is, and that is a true American hero who remained humble, and he still is. He has still given to the world the best he has, and the best is coming back to him.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Mobile, Alabama (Mr. CALLAHAN), the home of Hank Aaron.

(Mr. CALLAHAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia very much for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, let me tell my colleagues I am proud to stand here in this well today just as I stood in the well of the House of Representatives in the State of Alabama during the glorious years of Hank Aaron's career and in the State Senate also, Hank, when, if you may recall, we presented you with a resolution I passed through the Senate which gave to you the exclusive use of number 715 on Alabama State license tags, which is the number of home runs that you hit in order to achieve the first world record. I do not know if you are using that license tag or not, but it is still available.

But representing Mobile, Alabama and seeing your career blossom and seeing you rise to the pinnacle that you have, watching your brilliant career knowing all along that I know Hank Aaron, he is from my hometown, and now to stand in the well of the United States Congress and to tell you today, how proud I am to represent you and how proud the people of Mobile, Alabama are of you.

We recently built a first-class stadium for the Mobile Bay Bears in Mobile, Alabama. It is a class act. The stadium is one of the finest in America. The Mobile Bay Bears are doing great. But the people of Mobile honored, once again, Hank Aaron by naming it the Hank Aaron field.

So, Hank, I look forward to visiting you later on this afternoon. We look forward to visiting you and Mrs. Aaron. I will tell your friends and family back in Mobile hello.

I understand you are going to be living in Georgia. I hope that when you fully retire that you will remember your roots, and that you will come back to Mobile, Alabama. I hope that you are there so I can recognize you when I see you driving down the street. I hope you will display that tag number 715 that the State Senate gave you exclusive authorization to use for the rest of your life.

So welcome to Washington. I join my colleagues in giving you the highest of

praises for your brilliant career, but most of all for this extreme character that you represent in America here today.

□ 1315

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CALVERT). The Chair would remind the Members that remarks in the debate must be addressed to the Chair and should not mention the honored guests in the gallery.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time each side has.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) has 5 minutes remaining, and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) has 8½ minutes remaining.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY).

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I grew up in Wisconsin as a Chicago Cub fan. That does not have much to do with baseball these days, I know, but I have to say that when the Braves moved from Boston to Milwaukee, I had the privilege of seeing Hank Aaron play in Milwaukee County Stadium many, many times.

I think what we are doing here today is doing two things: first of all, yes, we are paying tribute to him for what he achieved in baseball. But even more than that, I think we are here simply to pay tribute to him for the way he played the game. He did not demonstrate just power, he demonstrated integrity, he demonstrated determination, he demonstrated at all times the qualities that we most admire in all Americans. And I think because he has been a role model not just professionally but personally, he has been a grace to the game and a grace to the country to whom his career has done great honor.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATTS), the chairman of the Republican Conference.

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, we have talked this afternoon about Hank Aaron's sports contribution. But let me read you what a couple of folks have said about him:

"He was a caring guy and self-effacing. He wanted things to be fair in an unfair world." "He taught us to follow our dreams." And, "He taught a kid from Eufaula, Oklahoma to follow his dreams."

The reason I like sports is because it is about effort and reward, it is about discipline and results, it is about going the extra mile and getting more out of it because you do. It is about knowing the rules and following them and hitting more home runs because you do.

He knew some unfairness in his life, but he pursued his dreams anyway. He paid the price, he practiced and he didn't take no for an answer. Sports is about leveling the playing field in a real way. Henry Aaron proves that.

Hammerin' Hank, thank you. Congratulations on this milestone in sports history. Thank you for wanting things to be fair in an unfair world. Thank you for teaching our kids that dreams can still come true in a sometimes unfair world.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT).

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of pleasure that I get up to acknowledge the man who broke the heart of a Chicago Cub fan over and over and over again. But, more importantly, was his stature and the way he carried himself in this country.

I think he would really be happy today if, instead of all these speeches, the United States Senate had not turned down an African American judge that they brought out and humiliated on the floor of the Senate. That would mean we had moved somewhere.

Mr. Robinson, Mr. Aaron showed us what it ought to be, but we still have a long way to go. We need people like Henry Aaron to show this country that we have to respect all the people in this society, even if they beat the Chicago Cubs over and over and over again.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, how much time do we have?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) has 3 minutes remaining, and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) has 7½ minutes remaining.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, it certainly is an honor to stand here today and to have Hank Aaron in the audience. I cannot begin to express the thrill it is, I am sure for all of us.

When I think of my own life as a little boy in south Baltimore, where we did not have grass fields, but we played on little play lots where vacant houses had been torn down; and where we did not have bats because we could not afford them, but we used broomsticks; and we could not afford baseballs, so we found any kind of ball that we could get our hands on; the fact is that we were following a dream. We were following a dream because of people like Hank Aaron.

When we looked at him, we saw us. We had someone that we could look up to and be proud of. And so that although we were sliding onto bases that were made out of a piece of cardboard, oftentimes cutting ourselves because we did not have the grass fields; and although many times we found ourselves frustrated because when we hit a home run, the field was so small we usually broke somebody's window, the fact remains that we were still pursuing a dream.

As I listened to my colleague, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT), talk, I could not help but think about an interview that was recently had with Mr. Aaron. I felt so

proud of him because I realized that he would have traded in all of these compliments that are being made here today if he could see more African Americans and more minorities in every level of baseball. And he talked about that, and I am so glad he has done that.

But I also say that Mr. Aaron made it clear that after the baseball playing days are over, and after the curtain goes down, and after the baseball players are unseen, unnoticed, unappreciated and unapplauded, he wants to make sure that they have opportunity. For I am sure it is clear to him that an individual can have all the genetic ability that anyone could want, and all the will that an individual could possibly want, but if that individual does not have the opportunity, they are not going anywhere fast.

So we thank him for all that he has done. We thank him for lifting up little boys and giving them something to dream about. We thank him for giving Americans something to cheer about. But we also thank him for showing America what a true American is all about. And we say to him, God bless.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize a man of great athletic ability, a man who has a great passion for life, a man who had a great vision for where he wanted to go, a man of great compassion, and a man who had unbelievable leadership skills.

Hank Aaron was born the third child of a rivet buckler of a shipbuilding company in Mobile, Alabama. While in high school, Hank Aaron began playing with the Mobile Bay Bears, a semi-pro team. One day in Mobile he was playing against the Indianapolis Clowns, which was on a barnstorming tour throughout the South playing other semi-pro teams, when the manager of the Indianapolis Clowns said, I have to have that guy come play for me, and he signed Hank Aaron to come play for the Indianapolis Clowns.

A couple of years later, he was scouted by the Milwaukee Braves, and at that point in time, at age 18, he was signed by the Milwaukee Braves and was sent to the Northern League in Wisconsin. At that time, when he went to Wisconsin, one of the first times he had ever been away from Mobile, Alabama, Hank Aaron began chasing his dream. In 1952, he was rookie of the year in the Wisconsin league.

The next year he moved to Jacksonville in the Sally League. He became the most valuable player in the Sally League in 1953. In 1954, he went to the big leagues, but they did not give him a chance to make it in spring training. It was only because of an injury to Bobby Thompson, who the Braves had acquired from the Giants during the off season, that Hank Aaron got a chance to play. But once he took over in left field, and he ultimately moved to right field, the rest became history.

On April the 23rd, 1954, Hank Aaron hit his first major league home run. Twenty years later, on April 4, 1974, Hank Aaron hit home run number 714, as was witnessed by our friend, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER). Four days later, on April 8, 1974, at 9:07 p.m., Hank Aaron hit home run number 715 at Atlanta Fulton County Stadium.

And those of my colleagues who have an opportunity to go to Turner Field today, which sits right across the street from where Atlanta Fulton County Stadium used to sit, ought to take a minute to go over and take a look at what is now a parking lot. There my colleagues will see a brass plate in the shape of a home plate. That is where home plate sat in Atlanta Fulton County Stadium. In the outfield, where home field number 715 used to be marked, there is the original section of the fence still existing today with the number 715 painted on it. That is where Hank Aaron hit number 715.

The next year, after he hit number 715, Hank Aaron was traded back to Milwaukee, which was his original home playing area. He spent two seasons there playing for then the Milwaukee Brewers, and wound up, as we have already heard, hitting 755 home runs.

He retired after the 1976 season, but here are some of the records which Hank Aaron still holds: obviously, most home runs ever hit in a career; 2,297 runs batted in; 6,856 total bases touched during his career; and 1,477 extra base hits during his career.

Hank Aaron obtained these records because he was a model of consistency. In his 24-year career, he played in 22 All Star games. He hit between 24 and 45 home runs for 19 straight seasons. For 11 years, he had 100-plus runs batted in. For 15 years, he scored 100-plus runs. He won two batting titles and four Gold Gloves.

After he retired, Hank Aaron came back to Atlanta and has been employed with the Braves organization since. Today, he is a senior vice president with the Atlanta Braves organization.

Several years ago, Hank and his lovely wife, Billy, started the Chasing the Dream Foundation. Today, Hank Aaron recognizes that there are any number of young people out there who do not have the opportunity that he had and Hank Aaron and his wife, Billy, established this foundation to provide an opportunity for kids between the ages of 9 and 12 to have the opportunity to improve themselves. They do not have to be athletes. They can be people who need rides to dance classes or people who need music lessons paid for. But if they exhibit an ability, if they exhibit good scholastic habits, they are available to apply for a scholarship from the Chasing the Dream Foundation, chasing the dream, just like Hank Aaron did many, many years ago in Mobile, Alabama.

Today, this great American, Henry Louis Aaron, is still chasing his dream, his dream to make America a better

place to live, and he is doing his part. Hank, we all salute you, my friend. God bless you, and thank you for everything that you do for America.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is fitting today, a day on which our Atlanta Braves play for the right to join the New York Yankees in the World Series, that the United States Congress takes the time to pause and honor the contributions of a great Brave, Mr. Henry Aaron.

Number 44 for the Atlanta Braves is the all-time leader in home runs, a record that stands among the greatest in sports. And while records are made to be broken, the spirit of inspiration that Mr. Aaron's example offers to all Americans will stand for all time. I am pleased to join my Georgia colleague, Congressman SAXBY CHAMBLISS, in a truly bipartisan effort to ensure that the tremendous achievements of Henry Aaron, the baseball player and the man, are recorded by the U.S. Congress.

We cannot forget the difficult times, the troubled waters, and the lonely bridges that Henry Aaron and his family had to contend with. When a young Henry Aaron dared to dream of being a professional baseball player, he could not have imagined the naked, raw, and uncaring face of discrimination that he would later confront virtually every day. But despite the hurdles that both baseball and life placed in his way, Henry Aaron refused to allow his dreams to die. He fought on not only to merely play professional baseball but to surpass the records of Ruth on his way to becoming one of the greatest players of all times. Today I honor Henry Aaron, not only for the thrill of watching a great player swing his way into the record books but for the pride of watching a great man march his way into the history books.

I rise, indeed I ask all of us to rise today in honoring the now and forever Number 44 of the Atlanta Braves, Mr. Henry Aaron.

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, public officials are used to scrutiny and, to varying degrees, accustomed to the sometimes harsh glare of the spotlight. But none of us have had to endure what Henry Aaron had to endure as he approached number 715. The pressure, I can only assume, must have been suffocating. Everywhere he went, cameras focused on him. Every step he took was followed by an army of reporters with the same probing questions. Hank Aaron was living in a fish bowl.

And it wasn't a very warm bowl at that. A vocal minority of hate-filled folks out there actually took umbrage at Aaron's success and tried, unsuccessfully, to undercut his courage. The manner in which Hank Aaron assumed the post of career home run leader speaks as much about the man as the feat itself.

I am a baseball fan, and therefore I am a Hank Aaron fan. I remember the evening of April 8 with startling clarity: the first inning walk, the fourth inning shot off the first Al Downing pitch he swung at that night, the pandemonium that followed. It is a moment forever etched on my mind, and, indeed, on the American cultural landscape.

Baseball fans love statistics, and when it comes to plain numbers there was none more impressive than the Hammer. 755 career home runs. 2,297 RBIs, including 11 seasons with more than 100. 6,856 total bases. 24 All-Star game appearances, two batting titles and four gold gloves. These are numbers that speak for themselves.

But Hank Aaron gave us so much more, as a ballplayer and as a man. In this age of skyrocketing salaries and off-the-field soap operas, Hank Aaron provides all of us with a benchmark of professionalism and a shining example for our children of what success is all about.

Later on in the evening of April 8, 1974, Aaron told reporters the record-breaking homer wouldn't have meant as much if the Braves hadn't won the game. What humility. Thanks, Hank: your feat meant so much more to the American people because of the way you accomplished it.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind the Members not to introduce occupants of the gallery.

The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, House Resolution 279, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 2130

DISCRETIONARY SPENDING OFFSETS ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2000

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3085) to provide discretionary spending offsets for fiscal year 2000, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3085

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Discretionary Spending Offsets Act for Fiscal Year 2000".

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title.

Sec. 2. Table of contents.

TITLE I—OFFSETS FOR DISCRETIONARY SPENDING

Subtitle A—Agriculture

PART I—FOOD SAFETY INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT FEES

Sec. 111. Fees for inspection of poultry and poultry products and related activities.

Sec. 112. Fees for inspection of livestock, meat, and meat products and related activities.

Sec. 113. Fees for inspection of egg products and related activities.

Sec. 114. Conforming amendments.

PART II—ASSESSMENTS UNDER TOBACCO PROGRAM

Sec. 121. Extension and increase in tobacco assessment.

PART III—ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE COST-SHARE FEES

Sec. 131. Biotechnology testing permit user fees regarding plant pests.

Sec. 132. Biotechnology testing permit user fees regarding plants.

Sec. 133. Fees for license and registration services under Animal Welfare Act.

PART IV—GRAIN INSPECTION, PACKERS, AND STOCKYARD ADMINISTRATION LICENSING FEE

Sec. 141. Grain standardization fees.

Sec. 142. Packers and stockyard licensing fee.

PART V—FOREST SERVICE FEES

Sec. 151. Timber sales preparation user fee.

Sec. 152. Fees for commercial filming.

Sec. 153. Timber and special forest products.

Sec. 154. Forest service visitor facilities improvement demonstration program.

Sec. 155. Fair market value for recreation concessions.

Subtitle B—Commerce

PART I—NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION NAVIGATION SERVICES FEES

Sec. 211. Navigation services fees.

PART II—NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION FISHERIES MANAGEMENT FEES

Sec. 221. Fisheries management fees.

PART III—ANALOG TELEVISION SERVICE SIGNAL LEASE FEE

Sec. 231. Analog television service signal lease fee.

Subtitle C—Education and Labor

PART I—NATIONAL DIRECTORY OF NEW HIRES

Sec. 311. Matching against NDNH with respect to defaulted loans and overpayments of grants under the Higher Education Act of 1965.

PART II—RECALL OF FEDERAL RESERVES HELD BY GUARANTY AGENCIES

Sec. 321. Recall of reserves in fiscal years 2000 through 2004.

PART III—EMPLOYER TAX CREDIT USER FEES

Sec. 331. Work opportunity credit and welfare-to-work credit user fees.

Subtitle D—Natural Resource, Energy, and Environment

PART I—NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION USER FEES AND ANNUAL CHARGES

Sec. 411. Nuclear Regulatory Commission user fees and annual charges.

PART II—FEDERAL INSECTICIDE, FUNGICIDE, AND RODENTICIDE ACT FEES

Sec. 421. Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act fees.

Sec. 422. Conforming amendment.

PART III—TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL ACT FEES

Sec. 431. Toxic Substances Control Act fees.

Subtitle E—Revenue

PART I—REINSTATE SUPERFUND TAXES

Sec. 511. Extension of Hazardous Substance Superfund taxes.

PART II—TOBACCO EXCISE TAXES

Sec. 521. Increase in excise taxes on tobacco products.

Sec. 522. Modification of deposit requirement.

PART III—CUSTOMS ACCESS FEE

Sec. 531. Customs access fee.

PART IV—CUSTOMS AIR AND SEA PASSENGER PROCESSING FEE AMENDMENTS

Sec. 541. Customs passenger and cargo fee.

PART V—HARBOR SERVICES USER FEE

Sec. 551. Harbor services fee.

Sec. 552. Harbor services fund.

Sec. 553. Conforming amendments.

Sec. 554. Definitions.

Sec. 555. Effective date.

Subtitle F—Human Services

PART I—TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES AMENDMENTS

Sec. 611. FY 2000 State TANF supplemental grant limited to amount of grant for FY 1999.

PART II—TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES CONTINGENCY FUND

Sec. 621. Deposits into fund.

Sec. 622. State eligibility for grants; elimination of extra month of eligibility.

Sec. 623. Annual reconciliation.

Sec. 624. Effective date.

Subtitle G—Health Care

PART I—MEDICARE SAVERS

Sec. 711. References in part.

Sec. 712. Reduction of clinical diagnostic laboratory test cap from 74 percent to 72 percent.

Sec. 713. Establishment of national limit on payments for prosthetics and orthotics.

Sec. 714. Reduction in payment for bad debts.

Sec. 715. PPS hospital payment update for fiscal year 2000.

Sec. 716. No markup for covered drugs; elimination of overpayments for epogen.

Sec. 717. Partial hospitalization services.

Sec. 718. Information requirements.

Sec. 719. Centers of excellence.

Sec. 719A. Effect of enactment.

PART II—FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION USER FEES

Sec. 720. References in part.

SUBPART A—MEDICAL DEVICE FEES

Sec. 721. Short title.

Sec. 722. Fees relating to devices.

Sec. 723. Sunset.

SUBPART B—FEES TO SUPPORT COSTS OF REVIEW OF FOOD AND COLOR ADDITIVE PETITIONS

Sec. 725. Short title.

Sec. 726. Fees to support costs of food and color additive petitions.

Sec. 727. Registration of food ingredient and color additive producers.

Sec. 728. Amendments relating to food additive petition review process.

Sec. 728A. Amendments relating to color additive petition review process.

SUBPART C—FOOD CONTACT SUBSTANCE NOTIFICATION FEES

Sec. 729. Short title.

Sec. 729A. Fees relating to food contact substance notifications.

Sec. 729B. Amendment relating to food contact substance notification process.

PART III—HEALTH CARE FINANCING ADMINISTRATION USER FEES

Sec. 731. References in part.

Sec. 732. Increase in Medicare+Choice fee for enrollment-related costs.

Sec. 733. Collection of fees from Medicare+Choice organizations for contract initiation and renewal.

Sec. 734. Fees for survey and certification.

Sec. 735. Fees for registration of individuals and entities providing health care items or services under Medicare.

Sec. 736. Fees for processing claims.

Sec. 737. Repeal of provision related to selection of regional laboratory carriers.

Sec. 738. Authority to issue interim final regulations.

Subtitle H—Transportation

PART I—FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION COST-BASED USER FEES

Sec. 811. Federal Aviation Administration cost-based user fees.

PART II—COAST GUARD VESSEL NAVIGATION ASSISTANCE FEE

Sec. 821. Coast Guard vessel navigational assistance fee.